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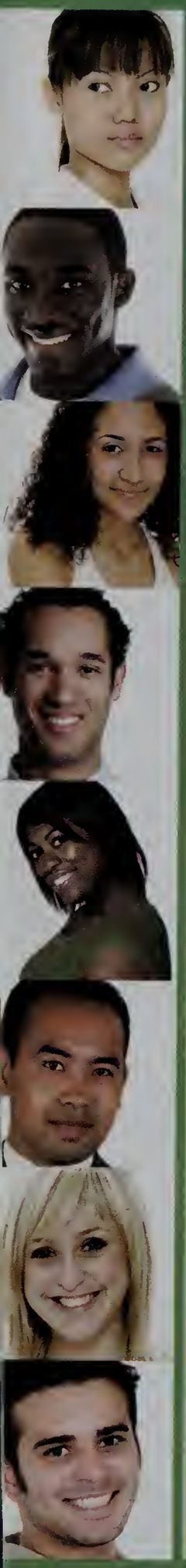

Learn More Earn More

Illinois' high-demand, high-wage occupations

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Illinois Occupations with the Most Openings Each Year

These tables list occupations expected to have the most job openings each year. "Best Bet" occupations (indicated below by a ◆) combine a high growth rate with a large number of annual openings and pay well for the level of training or education. For a complete listing of occupations, wages and skills information, visit LMI Source at http://lmi.ides.state.il.us.

Work Experience + 4 Years of College (Bachelor's Degree) or More

Occupational Title	Annual Openings	Hourly Wages Entry	Hourly Wages Experienced	Skills*	Description
General and Operations Managers	2,421	$24.21	$62.60	Active Listening, Management of Personnel Resources, Time Management	Plan, direct, or coordinate the operations of companies or public and private sector organizations.
Management Analysts	965	$21.17	$49.21	Writing, Reading Comprehension, Speaking	Conduct organizational studies and evaluations, conduct measurement studies, and prepare operations and procedures manuals.
Lawyers	844	$30.13	$78.21	Reading Comprehension, Judgment / Decision Making, Writing	Represent clients in legal proceedings, draw up legal documents, and manage or advise clients on legal transactions.
Financial Managers	580	$27.31	$61.53	Management of Financial Resources, Judgment/Decision Making, Critical Thinking	Plan, direct, and coordinate accounting, investing, banking, insurance, and other financial activities of an establishment.
Sales Managers	562	$25.86	$61.96	Active Listening, Speaking, Mathematics	Direct the actual distribution or movement of a product or service to the customer and coordinate sales.
Computer & Information Systems Managers ◆	513	$29.91	$57.79	Reading Comprehension, Critical Thinking, Active Listening	Plan, direct, or coordinate activities in such fields as data processing, information systems, and computer programming.
Pharmacists ◆	509	$34.96	$54.55	Active Listening, Speaking, Reading Comprehension	Dispense drugs prescribed by physicians and other health practitioners and provide information to patients about medications.

4 Years of College (Bachelor's Degree)

Occupational Title	Annual Openings	Hourly Wages Entry	Hourly Wages Experienced	Skills*	Description
Registered Nurses ◆	4,024	$19.85	$31.76	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Critical Thinking	Assess patient health problems and needs, develop and implement nursing care plans, and maintain medical records.
Secondary School Teachers	3,111	**$17.42	**$34.94	Instructing, Speaking, Learning Strategies	Instruct students in secondary public or private schools in one or more subjects, such as English, mathematics, or social studies.
Elementary School Teachers	2,158	**$16.59	**$30.05	Instructing, Speaking, Learning Strategies	Teach pupils in public or private schools at the elementary level basic academic, social, and other formative skills.
Accountants and Auditors ◆	1,999	$18.72	$37.78	Mathematics, Active Learning, Critical Thinking	Examine, analyze, and interpret accounting records for the purpose of giving advice or preparing statements.
Computer Systems Analysts ◆	1,001	$25.08	$43.87	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Complex Problem Solving	Analyze science, engineering, business, and all other data processing problems for application to electronic data processing systems.
Middle School Teachers	869	**$15.85	**$29.00	Instructing, Speaking, Learning Strategies	Teach students in public or private schools in one or more subjects at the middle, intermediate, or junior high level.
Computer Software Engineers, Applications	692	$25.14	$44.79	Programming, Critical Thinking, Complex Problem Solving	Develop, create, and modify general computer applications software.
Computer Software Engineers, Systems ◆	685	$28.12	$49.66	Complex Problem Solving, Technology Design, Troubleshooting	Research, design, develop, and test operating systems-level software, compilers, and network distribution software.
Employment, Recruitment & Placement Specialists	617	$12.90	$28.69	Reading Comprehension, Service Orientation, Active Listening	Recruit and place workers.
Computer Programmers	537	$20.88	$41.60	Programming, Critical Thinking, Complex Problem Solving	Convert project specifications and statements of problems and procedures to logical flow charts for coding into computer language.

* Top three required skills from O*NET (www.ONETcenter.org)
** Annual wages converted to hourly for comparison purposes
◆ "Best Bet" Occupation

UNFOLD FOR MORE OCCUPATIONS ↓

2 Years of College (Associate's Degree)

Occupational Title	Annual Openings	Hourly Wages Entry	Hourly Wages Experienced	Skills*	Description
Registered Nurses ◆	4,024	$19.85	$31.76	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Critical Thinking	Assess patient health problems and needs, develop and implement nursing care plans, and maintain medical records.
Computer Support Specialists ◆	660	$13.73	$27.28	Troubleshooting, Reading Comprehension, Critical Thinking	Answer questions concerning hardware and software, printing, installation, e-mail, or resolve computer problems for clients.
Medical & Clinical Lab Technicians	280	$12.19	$22.47	Reading Comprehension, Active Listening, Speaking	Perform routine medical laboratory tests for the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease.
Medical Records & Health Information Technicians	269	$9.45	$16.16	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Time Management	Maintain medical records of hospital and clinic patients in a manner consistent with the regulatory requirements of the heath care system.
Radiologic Technologists & Technicians ◆	222	$16.56	$27.71	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Speaking	Take X-rays, CAT scans, magnetic resonance images, and administer nonradioactive materials into patient's blood stream for diagnostic purposes.
Respiratory Therapists	208	$17.23	$24.70	Active Listening, Instructing, Reading Comprehension	Assess, treat, and care for patients with breathing disorders.
Dental Hygienists	206	$20.99	$34.22	Active Listening, Speaking, Reading Comprehension	Clean teeth and examine oral areas, head, and neck for signs of oral disease.
Paralegals & Legal Assistants ◆	198	$15.35	$26.43	Reading Comprehension, Time Management, Active Listening	Assist lawyers by researching legal precedent, investigating facts, or preparing legal documents.

Vocational Training After High School

Occupational Title	Annual Openings	Hourly Wages Entry	Hourly Wages Experienced	Skills*	Description
Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics	1,336	$10.21	$22.10	Troubleshooting, Repairing, Equipment Selection	Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automotive vehicles.
Licensed Practical Nurses ◆	749	$14.37	$20.72	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Time Management	Care for ill, injured, convalescent, or disabled persons in hospitals, nursing homes, private homes, group homes, and similar institutions.
Preschool Teachers	737	$9.02	$15.78	Instructing, Learning Strategies, Speaking	Instruct children (normally up to 5 years of age) in activities designed to promote social, physical, and intellectual growth.
Hairdressers, Stylists & Cosmetologists	649	$7.27	$14.79	Active Listening, Speaking, Time Management	Provide beauty services, such as shampooing, cutting, coloring, and styling hair, and massaging and treating scalp.
Legal Secretaries ◆	418	$12.55	$23.29	Reading Comprehension, Active Listening, Time Management	Perform secretarial duties utilizing legal terminology, procedures, and documents.
Emergency Medical Technicians & Paramedics	378	$8.99	$17.54	Active Listening, Critical Thinking, Speaking	Assess injuries, administer emergency medical care, and extricate trapped individuals.
Medical Secretaries	374	$10.90	$18.10	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Speaking	Perform secretarial duties utilizing specific knowledge of medical terminology and hospital, clinic, or laboratory procedures.
Bus/Truck Mechanics & Diesel Engine Specialists ◆	359	$13.66	$23.31	Equipment Maintenance, Troubleshooting, Repairing	Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul trucks, buses, and all types of diesel engines.
Fitness Trainers & Aerobics Instructors	351	$7.66	$20.08	Instructing, Speaking, Coordination	Instruct or coach groups or individuals in exercise activities and the fundamentals of sports.
Real Estate Sales Agents	252	$12.45	$31.11	Active Listening, Time Management, Negotiation	Rent, buy, or sell property for clients. Accompany clients to property site, discuss conditions of sale, and draw up real estate contracts.

Long-Term On-the-Job Training

Occupational Title	Annual Openings	Hourly Wages Entry	Hourly Wages Experienced	Skills*	Description
Carpenters ◆	1,394	$15.43	$30.61	Active Listening, Mathematics, Equipment Selection	Construct, erect, install, or repair structures and fixtures made of wood.
Restaurant Cooks	1,365	$6.91	$10.22	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Speaking	Prepare, season, and cook soups, meats, vegetables, desserts, or other foodstuffs in restaurants.
Electricians ◆	944	$20.13	$33.79	Installation, Active Listening, Repairing	Install, maintain, and repair electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures according to relevant codes.
Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers	920	$16.75	$32.00	Judgment / Decision Making, Active Listening, Speaking	Maintain order, enforce laws and ordinances, and protect life and property in an assigned patrol district.
Plumbers, Pipefitters & Steamfitters	823	$17.82	$36.19	Installation, Active Listening, Repairing	Assemble, install, alter, and repair pipelines or pipe systems that carry water, steam, air, or other liquids or gases.
Fire Fighters	714	$10.37	$26.99	Active Listening, Equipment Maintenance, Equipment Selection	Control and extinguish fires or respond to emergency situations where life, property, or the environment is at risk.
Machinists ◆	567	$10.85	$20.51	Operation & Control, Operation Monitoring, Mathematics	Set up and operate a variety of machine tools to produce precision parts and instruments.
Welders, Cutters, Solderers & Brazers ◆	421	$11.37	$18.26	Operation & Control, Equipment Selection, Equipment Maintenance	Use hand-welding, flame-cutting, hand soldering, or brazing equipment to weld or join metal components.
Sheet Metal Workers	291	$14.14	$31.32	Installation, Operation & Control, Equipment Selection	Fabricate, assemble, install, and repair sheet metal products and equipment, such as ducts, drainpipes, and furnace casings.
Automotive Body & Related Repairers	288	$13.07	$23.64	Equipment Selection, Repairing, Troubleshooting	Repair automotive vehicle bodies and straighten vehicle frames.

Moderate-Term On-the-Job Training

Occupational Title	Annual Openings	Hourly Wages Entry	Hourly Wages Experienced	Skills*	Description
Customer Service Representatives	2,794	$10.21	$19.00	Active Listening, Speaking, Writing	Interact with customers to provide information in response to inquiries about products and services and to handle and resolve complaints.
Sales Reps, Wholesale & Manufacturing	2,674	$15.81	$39.56	Speaking, Social Perceptiveness, Persuasion	Sell goods for wholesalers or manufacturers to businesses or groups of individuals. Work requires substantial knowledge of items sold.
Truck Drivers, Heavy / Tractor Trailer ◆	2,264	$13.18	$22.34	Operation & Control,Equipment Maintenance, Reading Comprehension	Drive a tractor-trailer combination or a truck with a capacity of at least 26,000 GVW. Requires commercial drivers' license.
Team Assemblers	2,149	$7.36	$13.41	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Speaking	Work as part of a team having responsibility for assembling an entire product or component of a product.
Executive Secretaries & Administrative Assistants ◆	1,921	$12.68	$22.52	Reading Comprehension, Writing, Coordination	Provide high-level administrative support by handling information requests, preparing correspondence, receiving visitors, and scheduling meetings.
Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	1,789	$10.65	$18.33	Mathematics, Reading Comprehension, Writing	Compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete.
Secretaries	1,498	$9.06	$16.08	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Time Management	Perform routine administrative functions such as drafting correspondence, scheduling appointments, or providing information to callers.
General Maintenance & Repair Workers ◆	1,427	$11.37	$22.29	Equipment Maintenance, Repairing, Troubleshooting	Perform work involving the skills of two or more maintenance occupations to keep machines, or the structure of an establishment in repair.
Dental Assistants	782	$11.12	$16.16	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Speaking	Assist dentist, set up patient and equipment, and keep records.

Short-Term On-the-Job Training

Occupational Title	Annual Openings	Hourly Wages Entry	Hourly Wages Experienced	Skills*	Description
Retail Salespersons	8,755	$7.47	$13.72	Active Listening, Mathematics, Speaking	Sell merchandise, such as furniture, motor vehicles, appliances, or apparel in a retail establishment.
Laborers & Freight / Stock Movers	6,784	$7.50	$13.24	Active Listening, Equipment Selection, Operation & Control	Manually move freight, stock, or other materials or perform other unskilled general labor.
Cashiers	6,529	$7.05	$9.53	Mathematics, Service Orientation, Speaking	Receive and disburse money in establishments other than financial institutions.
Waiters and Waitresses	5,058	$6.79	$9.29	Active Listening, Speaking, Service Orientation	Take orders and serve food and beverages to patrons at tables in dining establishment.
Fast Food Preparation & Serving Workers	4,365	$6.81	$8.45	Active Listening, Speaking, Instructing	Perform duties which combine both food preparation and food service.
Janitors & Cleaners ◆	3,758	$7.60	$13.25	Equipment Maintenance, Repairing, Troubleshooting	Perform heavy cleaning duties to keep buildings in clean and orderly condition.
General Office Clerks	2,952	$8.18	$14.55	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Speaking	Perform clerical duties that may include a combination of answering telephones, bookkeeping, office machine operation, and filing.
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	2,668	$7.63	$12.41	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Mathematics	Receive, store, and issue sales floor merchandise, materials, equipment, and other items from stockroom, warehouse, or storage yard to fill shelves, racks, tables, or customers' orders.
Food Preparation Workers	1,981	$6.97	$9.52	Active Listening, Reading Comprehension, Instructing	Perform a variety of duties such as preparing cold foods and shellfish, slicing meat, and brewing coffee or tea.
Receptionists & Information Clerks ◆	1,955	$8.62	$13.82	Active Listening, Speaking, Reading Comprehension	Answer inquiries for the general public regarding activities conducted at an establishment.
Nursing Aides & Orderlies ◆	1,686	$8.16	$11.81	Service Orientation, Social Perceptiveness, Active Listening	Provide basic patient care under direction of nursing staff. Perform duties, such as feed, bathe, dress, groom, or move patients.

* Top three required skills from O*NET (www.ONETcenter.org)
◆ "Best Bet" Occupation

Source: 2004-2014 Long-term Occupational Projections and 2007 Q2 Wages, Illinois Department of Employment Security, Economic Information & Analysis Division

For descriptions of education levels and other information visit lmi.ides.state.il.us/lmem/LMEM.htm

Plan for Your Future

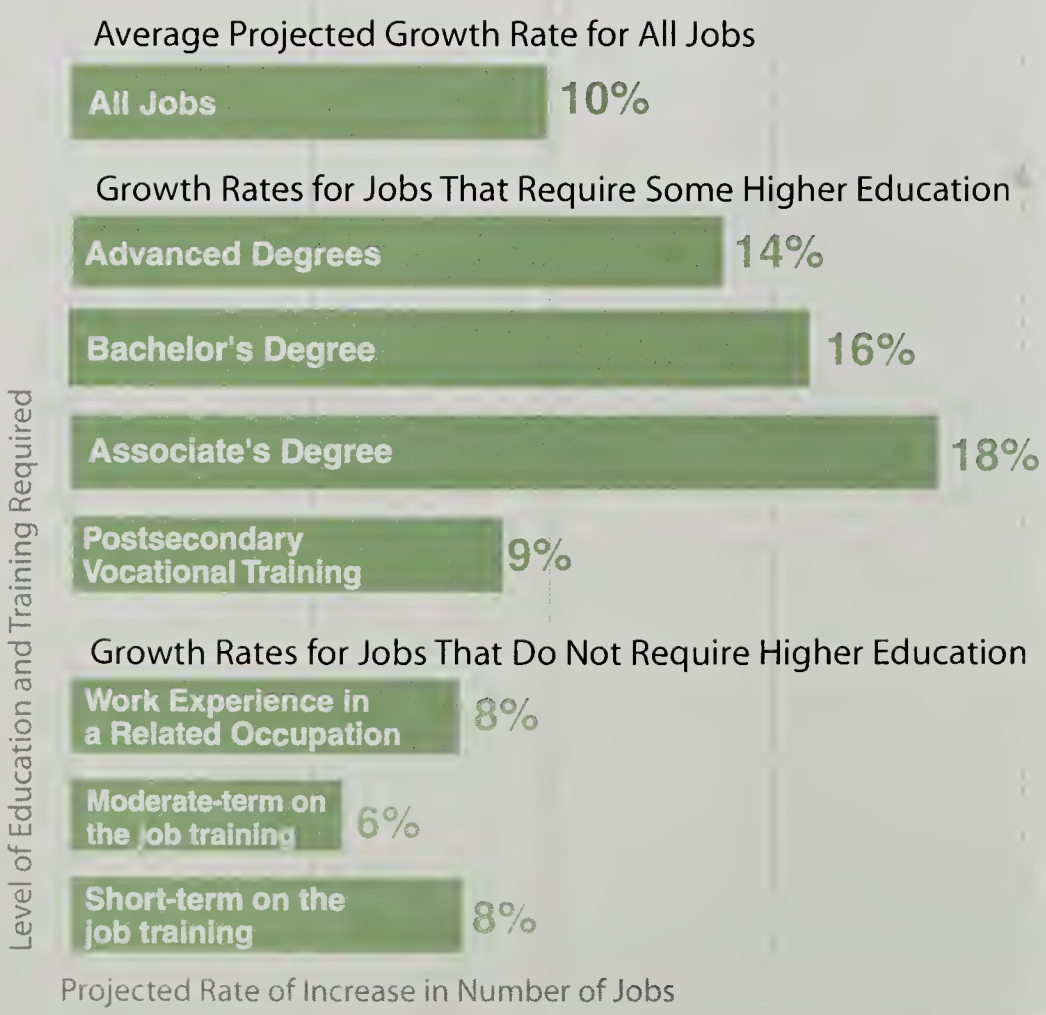
Workforce and career information helps jobseekers, students, parents, counselors, educators, and business leaders to make informed career and education decisions. Most jobs in Illinois require at least a high school diploma or equivalent. Employers also stress that "soft skills," such as positive attitude and reliability, are as important as technical and computer skills when they look for job candidates.

The economic impacts of high school dropouts are astounding. Research shows that:

- High school dropouts account for half of the households on welfare and over 60% of the population incarcerated in state and federal prisons.
- Persons without a high school education or equivalent are twice as likely to be unemployed and earn over $8,700 less per year than high school graduates.

Use the information in this brochure to explore the facts on employment opportunities that you can use to plan for your future. Visit the Illinois Career Information System (CIS) at **http://ilcis.intocareers.org** for even more information. Workforce and career information will enable you to make informed career, education and training decisions.

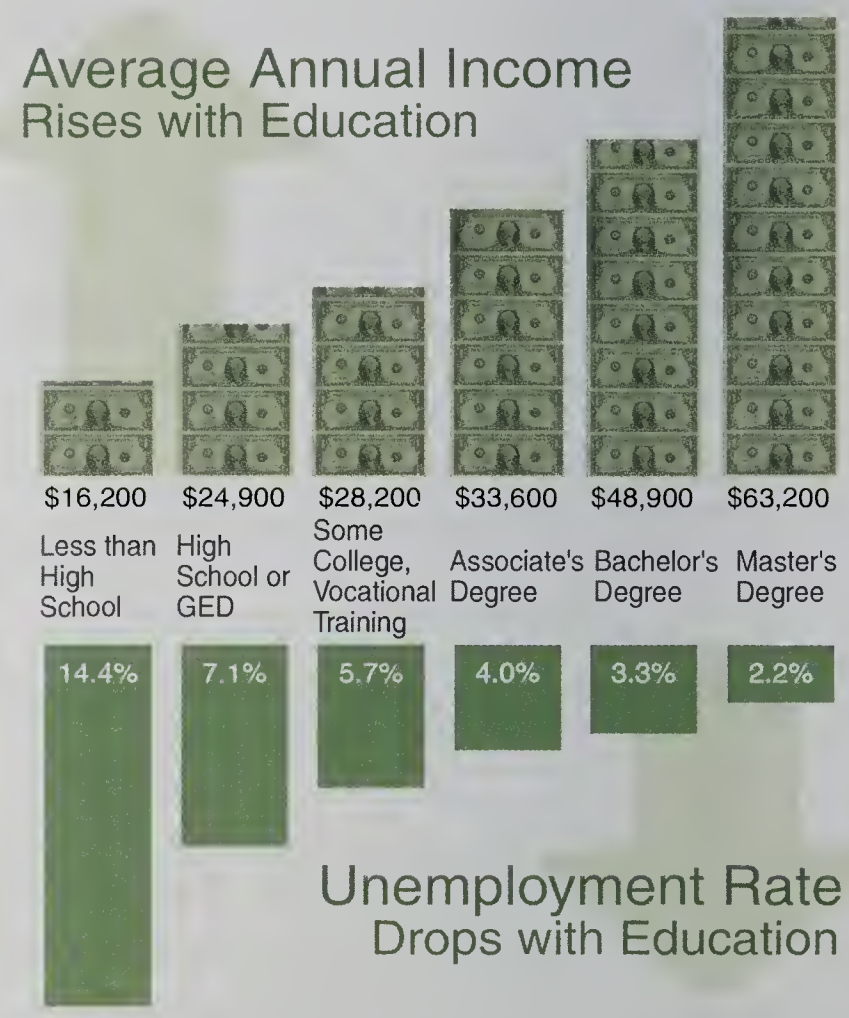
Jobs That Require Higher Education Are Growing Faster Than Those That Require Less Education



CHECK US OUT ONLINE

http://www.ILWorkInfo.com

has more information to help find the best career for you



Where can I find more information?

The Illinois Department of Employment Security offers a wealth of information concerning the Illinois labor market. Visit **www.ILWorkInfo.com** to find out more about:

Career Planning: Illinois Career Resource Network
1-877-513-1987
des.icrn@illinois.gov

Labor Market Information: LMI Source
1-866-ONE-SRCE (1-866-663-7723)
des.lmi@illinois.gov

Workforce Information: Workforce Info Center
des.workinfo@illinois.gov

For assistance with employment and training issues, contact your local Illinois Employment and Training Center. Call 1-888-367-4382 to find the location nearest you.

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Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor

James P. Sledge
Director

Sources:
Illinois Department of Employment Security's "Occupational Projections" and "Occupational Employment Statistics Wage Data" and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' "Occupational Outlook Handbook."

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